Testimonies in
Nauvoo High Council cases
1842 May
Regarding "Spiritual Wifery"

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Nauvoo May 21st 1842

Testimony of Margaret Nyman before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter day Saints in the City of Nauvoo.

Some time during the month March last Chauncy L. Higby came to my Mothers house, early one evening and proposed a walk to a Spelling School, My Sister Mildred and Myself accompanied him, but changing our design on the way we stopped at Mr Fullers, during the evening interview he, (as I have since learned) with wicked lies proposed that I should yeald to his desires, and indulge in sexual intercourse with him, stating that such intercourse might be freely indulged in, and was no sin, that any respectable female might indulge in sexual intercourse and there was no sin in it, provided the person so indulging, kept the same to herself, for there could be no sin where there was no accuser. And most clandestinely with wicked lies persuaded me to yeald, by using the name of Joseph Smith, and as I have since learned totally false & unauthorized. and in consequence of those arguments I was influenced to yeald to my seducer Chauncy L. Higby.

I further stat that I have no personal acquaintance with Joseph Smith and never heard him teach such doctrines as stated by Chauncy Higby, either directly or indirectly I heartily repent before god, asking the forgiveness of my Brethren.

Margaret S. Nyman

County of Hancock } ss
State of Illinois
City of Nauvoo

Nauvoo. May 21st 1842
Be it. Then personally appeared before me
George W. Harris. Alderman for the
Margaret S. Nyman. the signer of the above instrument
of writing, & testified under oath
that the above declaration is true

Geo. W. Harris Ald

Nauvoo May 21st 1842
Testimony of Margaret Nyman before the High
Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter day Saints
in the City of Nauvoo

Some time during the Month [of] March last, Chancey
Higby came to my Mothers house, early one evening and
proposed a walk to a Spelling School, My Sister Matilda
and myself accompanied him but Changing our design
on the way we stopped at Mrs Fullers, during the evenings
interview- he, (as I have Since learned _) with wicked lies
proposed that I should yeald _ To his desires and
indulge in Sexual intercourse with him, Stating
that Such intercourse might be freely indulged in,
and was no Sin, that any respectable female Might
indulge in Sexual intercourse and there was no sin in it,
provided the person so indulging, keep the same
to herself, for there could be no Sin when there was no
accuser - and most Clandestinly with wicked lies
persuaded me to yeald, by using the Name of Joseph
Smith, and as I have Since learned totally ~~wxxx~~
false and unauthorized. and in consequence of
those arguments I was influenced to yeald to My Sedu
=cer, Chancy L. Higby.

I further state that I ~~had xxx~~ ^have no personal^ acquaintance with Joseph
Smith, and never heard him teach such doctrines
as stated by Chancy Higby, either directly or indirectly.
I heartily repent before god, Asking the forgiveness
of My Brethren. Margaret J Nyman

County of Hancock} Nauvoo. May 21t 1842
State of Illinois} To wit. Then personally appeard before me
City of Nauvoo} George W. harris, Alderman for the
City of Nauvoo ^Margaret J. Nyman, the signer of the above in trument^
testified under oath
that the above declaration is true
Geo. W Harris Ald

Margaret Nymen
Testimony
C. Higgy

Margaret Nyman
Testimony
C. Higby

Testimony of Matilda Nyman before the high council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints in the city of Nauvoo, May the 21st 1842 Against Chauncy Higby

During this Spring Chauncy Higby kept company with me from time to time, and as I have since learned wickedly deceitfully and with lies in his mouth, urged me vehemently to yeald to his desires, that there could be no wrong in having sexual intercourse with any female that would keep the same to herself, most villianously and liingly stating that he had been so instructed by Joseph Smith and that there was no sin where there was no accuser, also vowing he would marry me, not succeeding, he on one occasion brought one in authority in the Church, who affirmed that such intercourse was tolerated by the heads of the Church, I have since found him also to be a liing conspirator against female virtue & chastity, having never received such teaching from the heads of the Church, but was at the time partially influenced to believe, in consequence of the source from whom I received it, I yealded & became subject to the will of my seducer Chauncy Higby — And having since found out to my satisfaction that a number of wicked men have conspired to use the name of Joseph Smith or the heads of the Church, falsely & wickedly, to enable them to gratify their lusts, thereby destroying female innocence & virtue — I repent before god & my brethren and ask forgiveness. I further testify that I never had any personal acquaintance with Joseph Smith, & never heard him teach such doctrine as Higby stated either directly or indirectly —

Matilda J. Nyman

State of Illinois } Hancock Co } ss. Nauvoo city, May 24, 1842. Then personally appeared before me, Geo. W. Harris Alderman of said city, Matilda J. Nyman the signer of this instrument & testified under oath that the above declaration was true.

Geo W. Harris Ald.

Testimony of Matilda Nyman before the High council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints in the city of Nauvoo, May the 21. 1842 Against Chancy Higby

During this Spring Chancy L Higby kept company with me from time to time, and as I have since learned Wickedly, deceitfully and with lies in his mouth, urged me vehemently to yeald to [his] desires, that there could be no wrong in having sexual in =tercourse with any female that would keep the same to herself, Most villianously and lieingly Stating that he had been so instructed by Joseph Smith and that there was [no] sin where there was no accuser -, also vowing he would Marry me. Not succeeding, he on one occasion, brought one in Authority in the Church, who affirmed that such intercourse was tolerated by the heads of the Church, I have since found him also to be a lieing conspirator against female virtue & chastity, having never received such teachings from the heads of the church ; but I was at the time partially influenced to believe in consequence of the source from whom I received it, I yealded and became subject to the will of my sedu =cers[sic] Chancey L. Higby-- And having since found out to my satisfaction that a number of wicked men have con =spired to use the Name of Joseph Smith, or the heads of the Church, falsely & wickedly, to enable them to gratify their lusts, thereby destroying female innocence & virtue I repent before god & my brethren and ask forgiveness.

I further testify that I never had any personal acquaintance with Joseph Smith, & never heard him teach such doctrines as Higby, sta[ted] either directly or indirectly -- Matilda J. Nyman

Hancock Co} To wit: Nauvoo city, May 24, 1842. Then personaly appeard
State Illinois} Before me, Geo. W. Harris, alderman of said city, Matilda J. Nyman the signer of this instrument & testified under oath that the above decaration[sic] was true. Geo W Harris Ald

Margaret D. Wynn

C. Hegly

Margaret J Nyman
C Higby

Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the City of Nauvoo May 24th 1844. – against Chauncy Higby.

Some two or three weeks since in consequence of Br. Joseph Smiths teachings to the singers, I began to be alarmed concerning myself, & certain teachings which I had received from Chauncy L. Higby, & questioned him about his teachings, for I was pretty well persuaded from Joseph's public teachings that Chauncy had been telling falsehood. – but Chauncy said that ~~the~~ Joseph dare taught as he did through necessity, on account of the prejudices of the people, & his own family particularly as they had not become ~~fully~~ believers in the doctrine. – I then became satisfied that all of Chauncys teachings ~~had been false~~ & that he had never been authorized by any one in authority to make any such communication to me. Chauncy L. Higbys teachings & conduct were as follows. When he first came to my house, soon after the spirit confirmed this of Br. Darwin Chase was with Lissa Chase, he commenced jeering me about my getting married, & & wanted to know how long it had been ~~[illegible]~~ since my husband died. – & ~~[illegible]~~ then removed his seat near me & began his seducing insinuations by saying it was no harm to have sexual intercourse with women if they would keep it to themselves. & continued to urge me to yield to his desires, & urged me vehemently. & said he & Joseph were good friends & he teaches me this doctrine. & allows me such privilegs & there is no harm in it & Joseph Smith says so. – I told him I did not believe it & had heard no such teaching from Joseph. Nor from the stand but that it was wicked to commit adultery &c. Chauncy said that did not mean single women, but married women. & continued to press his instructions & arguments until ~~after~~ dark, & until I was inclined to believe, for he called God to witness of the truth, & was so solemn & confident. I yielded to his temptations, having received the strongest assurance from him that Joseph approved it, & would assist me in it.

Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council
of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the
City of Nauvoo May 24th 1842.-- Agnst Chauncy Higby.

Some two or three weeks since, in consequence of Bro Joseph Smiths teachings to the singers, I began to be alarmed concerning myself, & certain teachings which I had recevd from Chauncy L. Higby, & questioned him about his teaching, for I was pretty well persuaded from Joseph['s] public teachings that Chaney had been telling falsehood.- but Chauncy said that ~~that~~ Joseph Now taught as he did th[r]ough necessity, on acount of the prejudices of the people, & his own family particlarly as they had not become ~~full~~ believers in the doctrine.- I then became satisfied that all of chaunceys teaching had been false [erased word], & that he had never been authorized by any one in authority to make any such communication to me. Chancy L. Higbys teaching & conduct were as follows. When he first came to my house ^soon^ after the spical conferene this spring, darwin chase was with him ^Chancy^ ~~he~~ comnced joking me about my getting married & & [sic] wanted to know how long it had been ~~for~~ since my husband died[1] - and he soon removed his seat near me & began his seducing insinations by saying it was no harm to have sexual intercourse with women if they would keep it to themselves. & continued to urge me to yield to his desires, & urged me vehemently. & said he & Joseph were Good friends & he teaches me this doctrine. & allows me such privilgs & there is no harm in it & Joseph Smith says so.- I told him I did not believe it, & had heard no such teching frm Joseph. Nor frm the stand but that it was wicked to commit adultry, &c. Chauncy said that did not mean Single women, but Married women: & continued to press his instructions & arguments until after dark, & until I was inclined to believe, for he called God to witness of the truth, & was so solemn and confident, I yielded to his temptations, having received the stronget assure from him that Joseph app[r]ovd it & would uphold me in it.

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[1] James David Miller died in Nauvoo on August 30, 1839, at the age of 26, leaving Sarah Searcy Miller to raise their four children. Sarah Searcy Miller married second, John Hopwood Blazzard on November 23, 1843. Three years later, her own *eleven* year-old daughter, Martha Ann Miller, also married the 43 year-old John Hopwood Blazzard, on March 30, 1846 (born September 22, 1834 in Case, Montgomery, IL). This is the youngest girl in a pedogamous marriage I have found. By the time Martha Miller was 24, she had married another three Mormon men (James Henry Marsh, Isaac John Hill, and James P. Brown), all at least two decades older than herself.

He also told me that many others were following the same course of conduct. As I still had some doubts near the close of our interview I again suggested my fears that I had done wrong & should lose the confidence of the Father when he assured me that it was right & he would bring a witness ~~a witness~~ to confirm what he had taught. When he came again William Smith came with him & told me that the doctrine which Chauncey Higby had taught me was true. & that Joseph believed the doctrine. I still had doubts & replied that I had understood that Higby had had recently been baptized & that Joseph when he confirmed him told him to quit all his iniquitous practices. Chauncey said it was not for such things ~~things~~ that he was baptized for. Chauncey replied for or concerning & William Smith said that he would take all the sin to himself. - for there was no sin in it. - before Chauncey left - the Lord he said do you think I would be baptized for such a thing & then go into it so soon again. Chauncey Higby said that it would mean the Moon. I told him that it might be told in bringing forth. Chauncy said there was no Danger & that Brother understood it & would come & take it away if there was any thing.

Sarah Miller

Hancock Co } So wit. Then appeared Sarah Miller the
State of Illinois } signer of the above instrument & made
City of Nauvoo — } oath that the above declaration is true
before me. Geo W Harris J.P.
Nauvoo May 24, 1842 } Alderman of Nauvoo City

Sarah Miller
Chauncey Higby

[p. 2]
He also told me that many others were following the same
coure of conduct As I still had some doubts near
the close of our interview I <agn> suggested my fear that I
had done wrong & should loose the confidence of the brthrn
when he assurd me that it was right & he would bring
a witness ~~a witness~~ to confirm what he had taught.
When he came again William Smith[2] came with him
& told me that the doctrine which Chancy Higby had taught
me was true. & that Joseph believd the doctrine. I still
had doubts & replied that I had understood that Higby had
had [sic] recently been baptized & that Joseph when he confirmd him
told him to quit all his iniquitous practices. Chauncy
Said it was not for such things ~~things~~ that he was
baptized for <chauncy exited from the room> & William Smith said that he would take
all the sin to himself. – for there was no sin in
it. before Chauny left the house he said do you
think I would be baptized for such a thing & then go
into it so soon again. Chauncy Higby said that it
would never be known. I told him that it might be told in
bringing forth [pregnancy]. Chauny said there was no Danger <& that> Dr Bennt
understood it & would come & take it away if there was any
thing. Sarah Miller

Hancock Co } To wit – Then appeard Sarah Miller to
State of Illinois} sign of the above instrument : & made
City of Nauvoo} oath that the above declaration, is true
before me. Geo W Harris __(Esq?)
Nauvoo May 24, 1842 Alderman of Nauvoo City

[Sideways]
Sarah Miller
Chauncy Higby

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[2] The *Nauvoo Neighbor*, May 29, 1844, p. 3, deletes William Smith from p. 2 of Sarah Miller's testimony:

> He also told me that many others were following the same course of conduct As I still had some doubts, near the close of our interview, I again suggested my fears that I had done wrong, and should loose the confidence of the brethren, when he assured that it was right, and he would bring a witness to confirm what he had taught. When he come again, I still had doubts, I told him I understood he, (Higbee,) had recently been baptized, and that Joseph, when he confirmed him, told him to quit all his iniquitous practices, - Chauncey said it was not for such things that he was baptized for, do you think I would be baptized for such a thing and then go into it so soon again ? Chauncey Hibee, said it would never be known, I told him it might be told in bringing forth. Chauncey said there was no danger, and that Dr. Bennet [sic] understood it, and would come and take it away, if there was any thing.

Matilda Nyman. C Higby. John C. Bennet. Willis Smith S.
Justus Moss. Darwin Chase. taught. —
Margaret Nyman says Dr Bennet has been at Dowie. last July —
John C. Bennet. & Chauncy Higby — Sedition.

May 28. Fellowship withdrawn from Justus Moss
Alexander Ellis Ray came in & testified that he had
nothing in favor of Chauncy Higby. — Chauncy wanted I
should testify against Nyman. — at Dowie. I think his
name was Margaret Jane. Nyman. — Hugh white.

Matilda Nyman says Lindard Fuller is guilty of the same
Dr Bennet was with her. I went to take a
walk. C. Higby brought him there. — She says he
always has been his friend & always call he.
& told us there was no harm. & persuaded us
both to submit. — Said Bennet in the act
with Sis Fuller. — — ~~Bennet~~ Married Mrs
Warren. — I was with C Higby at the same
time Margaret. —

Miss Marion — her mamma out of heaven —
says she was always to the society & reproved
for she was guilty. — — — — —

Widow Fuller said she had a gold watch sent
to her. by the name of Warren. but James got
it instead of Chauncy. —

Mr Gee lived above and have Bennet called
almost every day. — Mr Gee want send
her little girl away. till Bennet off —

Chauncy Higby is cut off from the church.

Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council
of Nauvoo (May 24, 1842)

Matilda Nyman. C Higby. John C. Bennt . Willim Smith S.
Justus Moss [Morse]. Darwin Chase. taught. --
Margret Nyman says Dr Bentt has been at Davis [? - Darwins?]. last July -
John C. Bennt & Channy Higby - seduce.

May 28. Fellowship with drawn fom [sic] Justus Moss
Alexander McRay . came in & testified that he had
withey in farm[?] of Chany Higby._ Channy wanted 2
stand[?] testify aginst Nyman at Davis[?]. I think her
name was ^Margret^ Jane. Nyman.-- Hugh White.

Matilda Nyman Says Widow Fuller is guilty of the same
Dr Bennet was with her. I went to take a
walk . C. Higby brought him there. She says she
always has been his friend & always will be.
& told us there was no harm & provided us
both to subject[?].- Saw Bennet in the act
with Sis Fuller. - - Bennt[?] Married Wm
Warren- I was with C Higby and the same
time Margret. --

Miss Maajor[?] - has moved out of Sa___[?]
by farm blongs to the __ty[?] & signified
she was gulty. - - - - - -
Widow Fuller said She had a gold wath [sic] sent
to her. by the name of Warren. But James[or Jane's?] got
it instead of Chany.

Mr Gee lived above our house Bennt called
almost every Day. Mr Gee would send
his little Girl away till Bennt left-

Chauncy Higby is cut off from the chuch [sic].

[Upside down]
Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council of Nauvoo (May 24. 1842)

Minutes

Testimony of Sarah Miller, before the High Council Nauvoo May 24. 1842

Minutes

Testimony of Sarah
Miller, before the High
Council Nauvoo
May 24, 1842

Darwin Case

Charged with teaching the Doctrine that it is not criminal to have illicit intercourse with women. in Presence of Miss Nyman. Matthew. — ... — he declared the Charge — — taught as I would at any other Time.

Darwin Chase

Charged with teaching the doctrine that it is not
Criminal to have illicit intercourse with women.
In presence of Miss Nyman. Matilda. -...- he denies the –
Charge - - - taught as I would at any other time -

Sarah Thompson
Ch. Hy. --

[unknown name]
C Higby

Chauncey Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by Bennett and that Joseph Smith practised such conduct but he did not have it from Joseph but he had it from Dr Bennett Mr Smith has also been at my house and proposed unlawful connexion but I refused because I had come to the determination to break off such conduct as I saw I was ruining myself

Darwin Chase has also been at my house sometime last winter made propositions as above but did not urge much - I did not yield to him

Liman C. Littlefield has also been at my house - made similar propositions - taught the same doctrines as the above - but did not accomplish his object because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing reproach upon the church. This happened on the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house - made propositions similar, and taught the same doctrine and accomplished his object - sometime in January came several times but has not been lately.

About the middle of Feby Thatcher was at my house - came twice - has not been since.

I suppose Dr Bennett has gained his object 10 or 12 times
" C. Higbee ——— 5 or 6 times
" Joel S. Miles ——— 2 times

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me - no man ever made the attempt before him

[redacted] insisted very much that I would not marry - and proposed if I would ~~grant his desires he would provide for me with food &c~~

C. Higbee also promised to keep me and supply me with food

Chauncey Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by
Bennett and that Joseph Smith practised such conduct but he
did not have it from Joseph but he had it from Dr Bennett
Wm Smith has also been at my house and proposed unlawful connexion
but I refused because I had come to the determination to break off
such conduct as I saw I was ruining myself,

Darwin Chase has also been at my house sometime last winter
made propositions as above but did not urge much – I did not yeild
to him

Liman O. Littlefield has also been at my house – made similar
propositions – taught the same doctrines as the above but did not
accomplish his object because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing disgrace
upon the church. This happened on the last of January or first of February. He came
several times in the space of a few weeks

Joel S. Miles has also been at my hosue – made propositions similar, and taught
the same doctrine and accomplished his object, - sometime in January came
several times but has not been lately.

About the middle of Feby Thatcher was at my house – came twice – has not
been since.

Suppose Dr Bennett has gained his object 10 or 12 times
--- C. Higbee ---------- 5 or 6 times
--- Joel S. Miles ---------- 2 times

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me – no man ever made
the attempt before him
~~XXXXXXX insisted very much that I would not marry _ and proposed if I would grant his desires he would furnish me with food &c~~
Cigbee [sic] also promised to Keep me and supply me with food

[Blank Page]

Catherine Warren
v.
J. C. Bennett & others.

Testimony of Catherine ~~Fuller~~ Warren before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the City of Nauvoo May 25th 1842 against John C. Bennett & others

Nearly a year ago I became acquainted with John C. Bennett, after visiting twice and on the third time he proposed unlawful intercourse being about one week after first acquaintance. He said he wished his desires granted I told him it was contrary to my feelings he answered there was others in higher standing than I was who would conduct in that way. and there was no harm in it. He said there should be no sin upon me if there was any sin it should come upon himself. I told him I was not guilty of such conduct and thought it would bring a disgrace on the church. If I should become pregnant he said he would attend to that. I understood that he would give me medicine to prevent it. Sometime last winter I became alarmed at my conduct and told him I did not wish his company any longer in that manner he told me that the heads of the church were conducting ~~and he supposed perhaps have~~ as they had. I think there happened last October, He said that, Joseph taught and conducted in the above manner; He also was with Mrs Shindle now living beyond Ramus. and also with the two Miss Nyman's ~~Hanks~~. I do not know that he kept company with any others neither did I hear him say he had.

I have also had unlawful connexion with Chauncy Higbee and George W. Thatcher - C. Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by Dr C. Bennett and that Joseph Smith taught and practised those things, but he stated that he did not have it from Joseph but he had his information from Dr John C. Bennett. The Chauncey L. Higbee has gained his object about 5 or 6 times

~~He also been at my house on the 27th of last month being the day I was married and proposed unlawful connexions but I refused and told him that it was contrary to the teaching of Joseph on the stand. He answered that Joseph was obliged to teach to the contrary on the stand to keep down prejudice and keep peace at home. He (Mr Smith) insisted very much that I should not marry and proposed to supply me with food if I would refrain unmarried and grant his request - Chauncy L. Higby also made propositions to keep me with food if I would submit to his desires~~

[Sideways]
Catherine Warren
v.
John C Bennett & Others

[Fold]
Testimony of Catherine Fuller ^Warren^ before the High Council of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the City
of Nauvoo May 25th 1842. Against John C. Bennett & others

Nearly a year ago I became acquainted with John C. Bennett, after visiting twice and on the third time he proposed unlawful intercourse, being about one week after first acquaintance. He said he wished his desires granted I told him it was contrary to my feelings he answered there was others in higher standing than I was who would conduct in that way, and there was not harm in it. He said there should be no sin upon me if there was any sin it should come upon himself. I told him I was not guilty of such conduct and thought it would bring a disgrace[?] on the church If I should become pregnant he said he would attend to that. I understood that he would give medicine to prevent it. Sometime last winter ^I became alarmed at my conduct and told him I did not wish his company any longer^ he told me that the heads of the church were conducting in that manner ^and referenced[?] Joseph's name^
~~and he thought as he had no good wife~~[?] as they had, I think this happened last October, He said that Joseph taught and conducted in the above manner, He also was with Mrs Shindle now living beyond Ramus. and also with the two Miss Nymans ~~Hxxx~~. I do not know that he kept[?] company with any others neither did I hear him say he had.
I have also had unlawful connexion with Chauney Higbee and George W. [or M.?] Thatcher. C. Higbee taught this same doctrine as was taught by ^J C^ Bennett and that Joseph Smith taught and practised those things, but he stated that he did not have it from Joseph but he had this information from Dr. John C. Bennett. He Chancey L. Higbee has gained his object about 5 or 6 times.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~[3] ~~has also been to my house on the 27th of last month being the day I was married and proposed unlawful connexion but I refused and told him that it was contrary to the teaching of Joseph on the stand. He answered that Joseph was obliged to teach to the contrary on the stand to keep down prejudice and keep peace at home~~
~~First W. Smith insisted very much that I should not marry and proposed to supply me with food &c if I should remain unmarried and grant his requests Chancy Higbee also made propositions to keep me with food if I would submit to his designs~~

[3] Although heavily crossed out, the name is about the right length to be that of William Smith, the few letters that are visible correspond with his name, William was one of this circle of men who seduced women in Nauvoo, and William was in Nauvoo at the time, having just begun to edit *The Wasp* on April 16, 1842. In addition, further down in the paragraph the name of "W. Smith" appears faintly.

Darwin Chase has also been at my house - sometime last winter as made propositions for unlawful connexion - he did not urge much - I did not yeild to him.

L. Liman C. Littlefield has also been at my house - and made similar propositions and taught the same doctrines as those already referred to - He did not gain his designs - because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing disgrace upon the church. This took place about the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house and made propositions for unlawful intercourse - and taught similar doctrine to that taught by Bennett - He accomplished his designs twice. He came several times but has not been lately - ~~The above transactions~~ This took place sometimes in January

George W. Thatcher has been at my house twice, sometime in the middle of February - but not since that time - he had unlawful intercourse with me twice - he said the heads of the church were teaching and practising such such things and he had as good right as they had.

Sometime about a year ago last summer as I have been informed Mrs Brosworth went to the house of Mrs Brown - but the door was fast - I thought they were not at home but happening to look over the door where a clapboard was off I saw Dr J. C. Bennett and Mrs Brown sitting very close together.

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me - no man ever made the attempt before him

J. B. Backenstos has also been at my house - was introduced by Chauncy Higby - made requests similar as above - gave me two dollars. He accomplished his designs only once - has been there two or three times since - this happened in the fore part of the winter

~~I have also had unlawful connexion with Dr. Higbee George W. Thatcher.~~

~~G. W. Thatcher was with me sometime in February but not since.~~

[p. 2]

Darwin Chase has also been at my house – sometime last winter has made propositions for unlawful connexion he did not urge much – I did not yeild to him.

Liman O. Littlefield has also been at my house – and made similar propositions and taught the same doctrines as those already referred to – He did not gain his designs – because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing disgrace upon the church This took place about the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house and made propositions for unlawful intercourse and taught similar doctrine to that taught by Bennett. He accomplished his designs twice. He came several times but has not been lately. ~~The above transactions~~ ^This^ took place sometimes in January.

George W. Thatcher has been at my house twice, sometime in the middle of February but not since that time – he had ^unlawful^ intercourse with me twice he said the heads of the church wear teaching and practising such Black things, and he had as good rights as they had.
Sometime about a year ago last ^summer^ as I have been informed ^Mrs Bosworth^ went to the house of ~~Mrs~~ ^Alfred^ Brown but the door was fast – I thought they were not at home but happening to look over the door where a clapboard was off, I saw Dr. J. C. Bennett and Mrs Brown sitting very close together

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me – no man ever made the attempt before him

J. B. Backenstos has also been at my house – was introduced by Chancy Higby – made request similar as above – gave me two dollars – He accomplished his designs only once – has been there two or three times since. This happened in the fore part of this winter–

[other side of fold]

~~I have also had unlawful connexion with Chauncey Higbee George W Thatcher.~~

~~G W Thatcher was with ... February ..~~

Testimony of Catherine Fuller -
L. C. Littlefield had been at my house, and made propositions to have unlawful intercourse - he urged ~~my~~ - this was about the last of January or first of February - had been 3 or 4 times in course of 2 or 3 weeks - he urged doctrine such as the following - namely - that there was no harm in having unlawful intercourse - that others conducted in the same way - there there should be no sin come upon her - if there was any it should come upon himself; that the heads of the church were practising the same things - named Joseph Smith - he urged this doctrine - was there about the first of february about 8 in the evening

Caroline Butler - went & rapped at Widow Fullers door - could not gain admittance - a sister had been before us and between the time that sister was there and the time we went a man was seen to go into the house.
This was on the Wednesday - On the Saturday after L. C Littlefield & C. Higby summoned us before Squire Hills for rapping at the door &c - who bound us to keep the peace 3 months

On motion by Pres. Marks - it was resolved by the Council that L. C. Littlefield be expelled from the Church untill he makes full satisfaction

Testimony of Catherine Fuller –
L. O. Littlefield had been at my house, and made propositions to have unlawful intercourse – he urged hard_ this was about the last of January or first of February – had been 3 or 4 times in course of 2 or 3 weeks_ he urged doctrine such as the following – namely – that there was no harm in having unlawful intercourse – that others conducted in the same way – there there [sic] should be no sin come upon her – if there was any it should come upon himself; that the heads of the church were practising the same things – named Joseph Smith – he urged this doctrine – was there about the first of February about 8 in the evening

Caroline Butler – went & rapped at Widow Fullers door- could not gain admittance – a sister had been before us and between the time that sister was there and the time we went a man was seen to go into the house.
This was on the Wednesday – on the saturday after L. O Littlefield & C. Higby summoned us before squire Hills for rapping at the door & c – who bound us to keep the peace 3 months

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Summary
of
Testimony against
L. C. Littlefield

Summary
Of
Testimony against
L. O. Littleifeld

Catherine Fuller. States that Darwin Chase had been at her house sometime in winter - made proposals to have unlawful intercourse - said it was no harm.-

Melinda Lewis - States that she once saw Darwin Chase and another in Widow Fullers house - at night

Caroline Butler - has frequently seen Darwin Chase go to Widow Fullers

Maria Champlin - saw Chase with Littlefield ~~on sunday~~ ~~on~~ last sabbath - came to Kingsleys about 5 o clock - about dusk rode out with one of the Miss Kingsley's to the prairie - returned about 10 o clock - some time after L. C. Littlefield had returned - tarried about one hour after - ~~said that~~ Joseph tried to persuade men to act wickedly and then exposed them.

Polly Meecham - saw Darwin Chase with L. C. Littlefield, come to Kingsleys last sabbath - on foot - spake concerning terrible things going on in Nauvoo -

Darwin Chase was rebuked, after he had partially confessed, moved by the Prest that Bro Chase retain his standing &c.

Catherine Fuller. States that Darwin Chase has been at her house sometime in winter – made proposals to have unlawful intercourse – said it was no harm_

Melinda Lewis_ States that she once saw Darwin Chase and another in Widow Fullers house at night

Caroline Butler - has frequently seen Darwin Chase go to Widow Fullers

Maria Champlin – saw Chase with Littefield ~~one night Xxx~~ last sabbath-came to Kingsleys about 5 o clock - about dusk rode out with one of the Miss Kingsley's to the prairie-returned about 10 o clock – some time after L. O. Littlefield had returned – tarried about one hour after- said that Joseph tried to persuade men to act wickedly and then exposed them.
Polly Mecham – saw Darwin Chase with L. O. Littlefield, come to Kingsleys last sabbath – on foot- spoke concerning terrible things going on in Nauvoo –

Darwin Chase was rebuked, after he had partially confessed. Moved by the Prest that Bro Chase retain his standing &c

Polly Mechus

Littlefield chose come about dan set, to Bro Stem-
plins. sandy sick stied till Wednesday
week last sandy stied till.

Bro Stenplin knows nothing material more than stated
come 4 or 5 date about dark talked about twig ride

Summary
of
Testimony against
Salmon Slade

[EXTRA PAGE]

Polly Masheres

Littlefield Chase come about sun set. to Bro cham
plins. sundy week. staid till 10 o clock
week last sundy staid till.
Bro champlin knows nothing materiel more than stated
come 4 or 5 o clok about dusk talked about [giving?] ride --

[Sideways]
Summary
of
Testimony against
Darwin Chase

Catherine Fuller - Joel S. Miles has been at my house sometime in January - made propositions of illicit intercourse - said there was no harm in it - that the heads of the church were practising such things &c accomplished his designs twice - had not been at her house for the past three weeks

Caroline Butler - has seen Joel S. Miles go there.

Catherine Fuller- Joel S. Miles has been at my house
Sometime in January – made propositions of illicit
Intercourse – said their was no harm in it_ that the
heads of the church were practising such things &c
accomplished his designs twice – had not been at her house
for the past three weeks

Caroline Butler – has seen Joel S. Miles go there.

Summary
of
Testimony against
Joel S. Miles

Summary
Of
Testimony against
Joel S Miles

Testimony of Miss Marinda Champlin before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - May 27th 1842 -

All that I know L & C they rode out one week ago last Sabbath and was out until 10 o'clock with Rachel & Ellen Kingsley - Rachel Littlefield came back ½ an hour before the other started about dusk - rode - did not say what they where going for - to take a ride. I thought their conduct was imprudent, She said some things to me which L. has said to her - such as some things as were going on up here - referring to the heads of the church. Did not see them there at any other time. They were there the Sunday before. I have not seen Joel H. Miles particularly know nothing of his improper conduct; Kingsleys are not members of the church they say they came up here to join the church but in consequence of the conduct and proceedings of some in the church they would not Polly Meecham. Mr L. & C came to Mr Champlin's on foot in the afternoon between 4 & 5 rode out & came back about 10 o clock ~~last Sunday~~ - was there a week ago last Sunday tarried untile dark and then went away - I heard him speak concerning some terrible things going on in town, did not say what they were ~~Kingsleys are not members of the church came up here to~~

Champlin - I was at home when they came there I should think about 4 o clock - read newspaper - about dusk talked about having a ride - went out - we went to bed - Rachel came home about 10 o clock - and said Ellen she was afraid was thrown from her horse and ~~he & L.~~ went away again to seek them they returned sometime after and Littlefield & Chase tarried about one hour afterwards,

Mrs Champlin. Know nothing particular to Kingsleys character only hearsay such in Pa. They lived 18 or 20 miles from us - I did not see you conduct yourself only like a gentleman - did not see any thing ill.

Testimony of Miss ^Maria^ Champlin before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints May 27th 1842-

All that I know ^one week ago last Sabbath^ L & C rode out ^and was out ~~until~~ until 10 I___
Rachel & Ellen Kingsly – Rachel &
Littlefield came back in an hour before - ^this they[?]^ started about dusk – rode – did not
say what they were going for – to take a ride. I thought there conduct was
imprudent, She said some things to me which L. has said to her – such as somethings
as were going on up here – referring to the heads of the church. Did not see
them there at any other time: ^__ were there the Sunday before^ I have not seen Joel D. Miles particularly
know nothing of his improper conduct. Kinglseys are not member of the
church – they say they came up here to join the church but in consequence
of the conduct and proceedings of some in the church they would not.
Polly Mecham. Mrs L & C came to the Champlins ^on foot^ in the afternoon ^between 4 & 5^ roc
out & came back ^about 10 o clock^ ~~last~~ sunday – was there a week ago last sundy
tarried until dark and then went away – I heard him speak concening
some terrible things going on in town, did not say what they were
~~Kingsleys are not membrers of the church – came up here to~~

Champlin – I was at home when they came there I should think
about 5 o clock – read newspaper – about dusk talked about having
a ride – went out – we went to bed – Rachel came home about 10 o
clock – and said Ellen she was afraid was thrown from her horse and
~~her &~~ L. went away again to seek them – ^the four^ returned sometime after
and Littlefield & Chase tarried about one hour afterwards.

Wm Champlin. Knew nothing particular to Kingsleys character only hearsay
not in Pa. they lived 15 or 20 miles from us - I did not see you conduct
yourself only like a gentleman – did not see any thing ill.

walked out on the prairie - did not see you after you had been gone a few minutes - could not see far. There is two houses - more a great ways off - gone about an hour - did not hear you say where you was gone. If you were out on prairie people could see - did not think it was prudent - they said they had been acquainted formerly - that you had married a sister in law. Saw you last sunday - rode on horseback started first to the woods - was gone a few minutes. Probaly 10 returned & went to prairie - there are houses in sight - think you were gone until about 10 o clock. There is one house on the way to the prairie - Rachel said you told her of some of the proceedings carried on in the city - and said you told her Joseph disapprobated it - said nothing about chase - did not thing any thing about your conduct being bad when you came in - when you went out on the prairie I did

Champlin - I thought they behaved well till after they started with the intention of taking a ride - rode two on a horse - a man and woman on each horse. From the statement of Rachel to me respecting what L. had said - she drew the conclusion that there was wickedness practised in Nauvoo and that Joseph put men up to it and then took means to discover it and disapprobated it. The girl first proposed to ride out. That Joseph was taking means to find out who was carrying on thus and cause men to make it known - Joseph would persuade men to do unlawful act and then expose them - this was what you said to her. Rachel Kingsleys girls did not bear a good character in Pa. nor in Nauvoo

Not acquainted with Kingsleys girls

[p. 3? – missing p. 2 in PDF?]

walked out on the Prairie – did not see you after you had been gone a few minutes – could not see far – there is two houses – none a great ways off – gone about an hour – did not hear you say where you was gone If you were out on prairie people could see – Did not think it was prudent- they said they had been acquainted formerly – that you had married a sister in law. Saw you last [summer?] – rode on horse back returned & went to prairie – there are houses in sight – think you were gone untill about 10 o clock. There is one house on the way to the prarie – Rachel said you told her of oncie[?] of the proceedings carried on in the city – and said you told her Joseph disapprobated it – said nothing about Chase – Did not thing [sic] any thing about your conduct being bad when you came in – when you went out on the praerie I did

Champlin – I thought they behaved well till after they started with the intention of talking a wile – rode two on a horse - a man and a woman on each horse, From the statement of Rachel to me respecting what L. had said – she drew the conclusion that there was wickedness practised in Nauvoo and that Joseph put men up to it and then took means to discover it and disapprobate it The girls first proposed to ride out. That Joseph was taking means to find out who was carrying on thus and ___ men to make it known – Joseph would persuade men to do unlawful acts and then expose them – this was what you said to her – Rachel Kingsleys girls did not bear a good character in Pa. nor in Mo.

Not acquainted with Kingsleys girls

Testimony of Melinda Lewis before the High Council of the Church of Jesus

I saw Darwin Chase at Widow Fullers and that is all that ~~I~~ know about him. I do not know Joel S. Miles. dont know that I ever heard his name before. I am not acquainted with Widow Fullers house at all. I saw Chauncey Higby at Widow Fullers frequently just before dark and one time I went in and saw him there I thought he had no rights to be there. I saw Chase there
saw Jno C. Bennett there last summer. Saw several strangers there did not know them - did not see Backenstos there - I have seen Leo Littlefield go over the fence and she and him stand and talk a good many times - have never seen Wm Smith there - do not know that he do not know of any other men visiting there - heard reports of Widow Miller know nothing of Clothier's ~~Caroline Butler~~

Caroline Butler
I have frequently seen Darwin Chase & Chauncy Higby go to Widow Fullers ~~frequently~~ - have seen Joel S. Miles go there - have seen L. C. Littlefield go in there - a man from Carthage was there a few weeks ago - (Parrish's wife's testimony) Parrish's wife was there - did not tell his name - was a widower - two nights before she was married Parrish wife said they sat up pretty much all night. Do not know Justus Morse nor - Shindles wife was frequently with widow Fuller - Neymans girl was frequently there dont know any particulars

Ellen Edwards - Lives on the same Block with Caroline Butler - about 1/4 mile from Fullers - not acquainted with Darwin Chase nor Joel S. Miles went in without knocking as she frequently did - went to bury children went in one night and saw four men there one was Chauncy Higby - saw no improper conduct - new years week - dont know Justus Morse

Testimony of Melinda Lewis before the High Council of the Church of Jesus

I saw Darwin Chase at Widow Fullers and that is all that ~~sh~~ I did know
about him. I do not know Joel S. Miles, don't know that I ever heard
his name before. I am not acquainted with Widow Fullers house at all
I saw Chancey Higby at Widow Fullers frequently just before dark
and one time I went in and saw him there I thought he had not rights
to be there. I saw Chase there
saw Jno C Bennett there last summer. Saw several strangers there
did not know them – did not see Backenstos there – I have see[n] L O Little
field go over the fence and she and him stand and talk a good many
times – have never seen Wm Smith there – do not know Thatcher
Do not know of any other men visiting there – heard reports of Widow Miller
know nothing of Clothiers ~~Caroline Butler~~

Caroline Butler
I have frequently seen Darwin Chase & Chancy Higby go to Widow
Fullers ~~frequently~~ – have seen Joel S. Miles go there – have seen
L. C. [sic- O?] Littlefield go in there – A man from Carthage was there a few
weeks ago – (Barriss's wife's testimony) – Barriss's wife was there – did not
tell his name – was a widower – two nights before she was married
Barriss wife said they sat up pretty much all night. Do not know
Justus Morse nor Shindles wife was frequently with widow
fuller – Neymans girls was frequently there don't know any particulars

Ellen Edwards – Lives on the same Block with Caroline Butler – about
¼ mile from Fullers – not acquainted with Darwin Chase nor Joel S. Miles
went in one night ^went in without knocking as she frequently did – went to tarry[?]^
and saw fo__ ___ there once[?] was Chancy Higby – saw
no improper conduct – new years week – Don't know Justus Morse

I know J. C. Bennett - never saw him there - not acquainted with Clothiers only one of the girls - seen her at the meeting several times - not acquainted with Shes - am acquainted with Mary ann Hyman dont know where they live - I him at my fathers - never heard Margeret say any thing about Bennett or Higbee. ——

Mary Hardman — Not much acquainted with widow Fuller have seen Darwin Chase - not acquainted with Joel S. Miles. acquainted with J. C. Bennett - went with Ellen Edwards to widow Fullers saw Chauncy Higbee & Darwin Chase - did not know the others

Melinda Lewis
I am very suspicious of Mrs Barrisp but do not know any thing positive - is now working on the island with a man who is not her husband - have seen them frequently walking together his name is Richard Sheldon - She is frequently visiting with widow Fuller and tarries ale night - her husband is sick Sheldon is a single man - and is at work for Barrisp

I and sister Lewis went one night (Wednesday) to sister Fullers and rapped at the door - she would not admit us in - we felt grieved because we knew our husbands were supply her with fuel &c we talked to her somewhat aggravating - but for her good - pulled a curtain sideways that was hanging over a crack in the door ~~to sister~~ had been before us and rapped at the door - could not gain admittance - and soon after a man was seen to go into the house on the Saturday after Chauncy Higbee & Lyman C. Littlefield had as before spoken Hales for rapping at the door &c - he bound us over to keep the peace for three months. time is out tomorrow - said it was her custom to not open the door when she had company she did not want any one to know who she kept company with

C. Butler testified the same with regard to sister Barrisp and said that was the reason they had objected to her becoming a member of the Female relief society

[p. 2]

I know J. C. Bennett – never saw him there – not acquainted with
Clothiers only one of the girls – seen her at the meeting several times – Not
acquainted with Ghee's – am acquainted with Margaret Neyman
don't know where they live – I live at my fathers – never heard Margeret
say any thing about Bennett of Higbee. –––––

Mary Hardman – Not much acquainted with widow Fuller
have seen Darwin Chase – not acquainted with Joel S. Miles . acquainted
with J C. Bennett – went with Eleen [sic] Edwards to widow Fullers
saw Chancy Higbee & Darwin Chase – did not know the others

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positive – is now working on the island with a man who is not
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Widow Fuller and tarries all nights – her husband is sick
Sheldon is a single man – and is at work for Barriss

I and sister Lewis went one night (Wednesday) to sister Fullers and
stopped [?] at the door – she would not admit us in – we felt grieved
because we knew our husbands were supply[ing] her with fuel &c
we talked to her – somewhat aggravating – but for her good – pulled
a curtain sideways that was hanging over a crack in the door
Our Sister had been before us and rapped at the door – could not gain
admittance – and soon after a man was seen to go into the house
on the Saturday after Chancy Higbee & Lyman O. Littlefield had as
before squire Hiles [?] for rapping at the door &c – he bound us over
to keep the peace for three months. time is out tomorrow –
Said it was her custom to not open the door when she had company
she did not want any one to know who she kept company with

C. Butler testified she saw with regard to sister Barriss and said that
was the reason they had object to her becoming a member of the Female
Relief Society –

Widow ~~Fulton~~ or Warren — against Darwin Chase

Don't know what the men came
for — if it was not for evil.
came in dat clean by the side
of me. began to behave indecent. I told
him to behave himself. he said there was
no harm in it — came with strong Flighty
Twist — in the evening — laid his hands on me
in an unwarrentable manner — stairs touched
each other. put his hands on me. I thought
by his words, thinks he he desired or intended
unlawful intercourse — walked to my home
with Sister Stanson from meeting

Matilda Nyman Darwin Chase proposed to have
illicit intercourse with me. but did not urge it
hard. taught the same doctrine as others but
Did not use the name of Joseph.

before High Council. May 29 1842

Widow ~~Fuller~~ or Warren -- againt Darwin Ch[ase]

don't know what the main cause
of it was until [?] for ___il,
Ju[ne?] – came in sat down by the side
of me. began to behave indelcut. I told
him to behave himself. he said their was
no harm in it – came with Chauncy Hig[bee]
_____: - in the evening – Said his friends are ou[t?]
in an unwarrantable manner – Mairs teachd
each other. put his hands on me. I thought
by his words [& looks?] &c. he desird or intended
unlawful intercourse – walked to my home
with Sister Thompson from Meeting

Matilda Nyman Darwin Chase preposd to have
illicit intercourse with me, but did not urge it
hard. taught the same doctrine as others but
Did not use the name of Joseph.

before High Council May 28 1842}

Lordond ~~Butler~~
Butler
against Darrodin
Chas

Widow ~~Miller~~
Fuller
against Darwin
Chase